

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling a machine that accepts payment media and that requires a user login operation, the method comprising:
receiving the payment media in an input receptacle of the machine;
starting processing of the payment media that has been received in the input receptacle; and
performing the user login operation,
wherein the step of performing the user login operation can be done before, during or after the step of processing the payment media.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the payment media received in the input receptacle in a secure device until the user login operation is completed.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the secure device comprises one or more of a roll store in the machine, an escrow device in the machine, or a secure compartment in the machine.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the user login operation is performed at the machine, is performed from a location electronically coupled to the machine over a local communication network or is performed from a remote location electronically coupled to the machine over a wide area communication network.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the machine is located in a retail store, and the user is a cashier of a retail store, a teller, an individual having minimal training in the operation of payment media handling devices or an individual not skilled in the operation of payment media handling devices, wherein a retail store includes one or more of at least a single store, multiple stores, one or more third party concession stands located within a single store and two or more stores located within a mall.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the machine is located in a retail store, and the user is an employee of a company different from a retail store, wherein a retail store includes one or more of at least a single store, multiple stores, one or more third party concession stands located within a single store and two or more stores located within a mall.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the machine is located at a central location, and users of the machine are employees from plural companies having access to the central location.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the payment media comprises feeding the payment media through the machine, and the user login operation is performed while the payment media is being fed through the machine.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the processing of the payment media includes at least one of counting the payment media, determining a denomination of the payment media and authenticating the payment media.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the payment media is one or more of currency notes, currency coins, currency vouchers and currency checks.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment media is one or more of currency notes, currency coins, currency vouchers and currency checks.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the machine is capable of dispensing payment media previously accepted into the machine.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the payment media is cancelled following a plurality of user login operation failures.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein, following the plurality of user login operation failures, the machine returns to a user the same payment media that was placed into the input receptacle by the user.

15. The method of claim 3, wherein the same the payment media stored in the escrow device is returned to a user following an unsuccessful login operation.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying a user that the payment media processing has been successfully completed upon occurrence of a successful user login and completion of the processing.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising storing the payment media in the machine upon a determination of a successful user login operation and completion of the processing.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the user login operation is performed using a user interface of the machine.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the user interface is a touch screen.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating an event log file that includes at least one of a time of day, a transaction value for the event, payment media handling apparatus information, payment media originating source information.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the event log file is stored in the payment media handling apparatus or remotely from the payment media handling apparatus.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the user login operation uses one or more of a personal identification number login verification process, a biometric verification process, a smart card, a magnetic stripe card and a radio-frequency identification device.

23. A machine-readable storage medium that provides instructions for controlling a machine that accepts payment media and that requires a user login operation, the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving the payment media in an input receptacle of the machine;
starting processing of the payment media that has been received in the input receptacle; and
performing the user login operation,
wherein the step of performing the user login operation can be done before, during or after the step of processing the payment media.

24. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, further comprising storing the payment media received in the input receptacle in a secure device until the user login operation is completed.

25. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the secure device comprises one or more of a roll store in the machine, an escrow device in the machine, or a secure compartment in the machine.

26. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the user login operation is performed at the machine, is performed from a location electronically coupled to the machine over a local communication network or is performed from a remote location electronically coupled to the machine over a wide area communication network.

27. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the processing of the payment media comprises feeding the payment media through the machine, and the user login operation is performed while the payment media is being fed through the machine.

28. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the processing of the payment media includes at least one of counting the payment media, determining a denomination of the payment media and authenticating the payment media.

29. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the processing of the payment media is cancelled following a plurality of user login operation failures.

30. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the payment media stored in the escrow device is returned to a user following an unsuccessful login operation.

31. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, further comprising instructions to notify the user that the payment media processing has been successfully completed upon occurrence of a successful user login and completion of the processing.

32. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, further comprising creating an event log file that includes at least one of a time of day, a transaction value for the event, payment media handling apparatus information, payment media originating source information.

33. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the event log file is stored in the payment media handling apparatus or remotely from the payment media handling apparatus.

34. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the user login operation uses one or more of a personal identification number login verification process, a biometric verification process, a smart card, a magnetic stripe card and a radio-frequency identification device.

35. A machine that accepts payment media and that requires a user login operation, the machine comprising:

an input receptacle into which a user of the machine places the payment media;

a user interface through which the user of the machine performs a user login operation; and

a controller that starts processing of the payment media that has been received in the input receptacle and that performs the user login operation either before, during or after processing the payment media.

36. The machine of claim 35, further comprising storing the payment media received in the input receptacle in a secure device until the user login operation is completed.

37. The machine of claim 36, wherein the secure device comprises one or more of a roll store in the machine, an escrow device in the machine, or a secure compartment in the machine.

38. The machine of claim 35, wherein the user login operation is performed at the machine, is performed from a location electronically coupled to the machine over a local communication network or is performed from a remote location electronically coupled to the machine over a wide area communication network.

39. The machine of claim 35, wherein the processing of the payment media comprises feeding the payment media through the machine, and the user login operation is performed while the payment media is being fed through the machine.

40. The machine of claim 39, wherein the processing of the payment media includes at least one of counting the payment media, determining a denomination of the payment media and authenticating the payment media.

41. The machine of claim 40, wherein the payment media is one or more of currency notes, currency coins, currency vouchers and currency checks.

42. The machine of claim 35, wherein the payment media is one or more of currency notes, currency coins, currency vouchers and currency checks.

43. The machine of claim 35, wherein the controller also controls the machine to dispense payment media previously accepted into the machine.

44. The machine of claim 35, wherein the controller cancels the processing of the payment media following a plurality of user login operation failures.

45. The machine of claim 44, wherein, following the plurality of user login operation failures, the controller causes the machine to return to the user the payment media that was placed into the input receptacle by the user.

46. The machine of claim 37, wherein the controller cancels the processing of the payment media following a plurality of user login operation failures and returns the payment media stored in the escrow device to a user.

47. The machine of claim 35, wherein the controller uses the user interface to notify the user that the payment media processing has been successfully completed upon occurrence of a successful user login and completion of the processing.

48. The machine of claim 35, wherein the user interface is a touch screen.

49. The machine of claim 35, wherein the controller further creates an event log file that includes at least one of a time of day, a transaction value for the event, payment media handling apparatus information, payment media originating source information.

50. The machine of claim 49, wherein the event log file is stored in the payment media handling apparatus or remotely from the payment media handling apparatus.